

APPENDIX G

HOW WE CAN GROW SMARTER

LAND COVER CHANGE PROBLEM:

LIST OF CHARACTERS/ROLES FOR THE TOWN MEETING

Government: An environment in which the elected representatives of the people establish rules and regulations to conduct political activities and maintain a democratic process on behalf of the majority of society's concerns.

Politician -- A political representative of a certain municipality who acts as governing agent for that municipality. The extent of his/her jurisdiction extends to the land boundaries of the municipality.

Zoning Member -- Each Municipality, County and/or State have a zoning board, which regulates the land use of that county. Hearings are held for compliance and changes to the regulations and the use of the land at issue.

Smart Growth Representative -- An appointed public official who is hired to enact the state "Smart Growth" Laws. They work for the Maryland Office of Planning which governs and directs statewide urban growth patterns.

County Planner -- A public employee who is hired to work as a countywide planner. They work for the County Office of Planning, which governs and directs countywide urban growth patterns. They work with the zoning board to design the land use of the county.

Environmentalists: Public and private groups or individuals who are concerned with the natural resources and how they are being used. These special interest groups/individuals can lobby politicians about land use and land management issues while also raising public awareness about their concerns.

Ecologist -- A scientist who studies the interactions and relationships between humans and their environment. Specifically they explore how animals use natural resources (space, water, shelter and food.)

Conservationist -- A concerned scientist or citizen who seeks to preserve land and environments in their undisturbed state. They volunteer their time usually to address local issues and concerns that arise from further development and construction. They can file suits in court to halt or delay development from proceeding.

Botanist/Wildlife Biologist -- A scientist who explores plants/animals and how they use natural resources, behavior and how much space they require to live. They have extensive understandings of how natural systems work.

Citizens: A diverse group who comprises the general perspectives of the population in a community. This sub-group of the population at large represents the various points of view. Most people/citizens who come to town meetings feel strongly about their views.

Services – An independent or sub contractor who works locally to maintain the physical systems (e.g. heating, cooling, and plumbing) associated with commercial, industrial, and/or residential development.

Small business owner -- A person who owns a store or runs a small company from home is considered a small business owner. They usually employ between 2 to 20 people and are a vital part of the local economy. The small business owner does not always live in the community where their business is located.

Commuter – A business professional who lives in one community and works in another. They can have noticeably different views about the communities where they live and work. Usually they want to limit the amount of growth in the community where they live.

Parents – This group can be a service professional, business professional who commutes or a small business owner; however they are specifically interested in how residential growth has affected the local schools. They want to ensure the quality of education for their children.

Senior Citizen – This description refers to people who are elders in the local community. They have usually lived in the area for much of their lives and have witnessed significant change. Due to this larger perspective, they can be resistant to further development and difficult to convince as to the need for more growth.

School Head – This person is a leader in the community who represents the interests of a distinct group. They directly feel the effects of increased residential growth on how their school operates.

Developers: A field of business, which strives to adapt the change in population in a certain region to the existing land. They are involved in a process of changes depending on the demands of the people who are affected and the possible use of land.

Land Owner -- Whether by inheritance, purchase or gift, a person owns a piece of land on which may be his/her house, farm, barn or other structures for private use.

Developer -- A businessperson, who for profit buys raw land to re-zone and use as a higher density property. He/she contracts with builders, suppliers, and lessees to coordinate the development of the land to its highest use as approved by the zoning board.

Bank -- A financial (lending) institution, which is regulated by the FDIC and Federal Reserve, which serves the community by lending monies to borrowers who pay interest to use that money. Checking and savings accounts can be set up within the bank.

Contractor -- A company or person who offers his/her labor services to create infrastructure, build buildings, and make plans to assist the development process and who charges a fee for his/her services.